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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/974,853	10/12/2001	Keima Takabayashi	0445-0310P	7444
7590	01/13/2005			EXAMINER
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP			TORRES VELAZQUEZ, NORCA LIZ	
P. O. Box 747			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747			1771	
DATE MAILED: 01/13/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/974,853	TAKABAYASHI ET AL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Norca L. Torres-Velazquez	1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).

Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 October 2004.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1,3-5 and 10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>82004, see other</u> .	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
	6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>51302 11102 83002</u>

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's amendment filed on October 15, 2004 of claim 1 has been considered and overcomes the 35 U.S.C 112 rejections of previous office action. The 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims has been withdrawn. The independent claim 1, now provide structural limitations that better define the invention.
2. Upon further examination, it is noted that while it is understood from the claim that the cleaning area and the low friction area are adjoining to each other (i.e. are located next to each other in the same plane). The claims as recited fail to provide spatial relationship of the first and second sheet comprised by the cleaning area.
3. With regards to the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections of the claims over JP'895 and JP'961 and further in view of JP'415. It is noted that the art cited reads on the presently claimed structural limitations as stated below.

Information Disclosure Statement

Copies of requested PTO-1449 forms field August 20, 2004 and January 1, 2002 and August 30, 2002 are included in this office action. It is noted that the considered forms requested herein were considered and mailed to Applicants with paper 7 mailed on May 19, 2003

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention. The claim recites "...and the air-laid surface having a fineness of 23 to 200 dtex;...". It is not clear how the surface can have a fineness? Is it possible that Applicants meant that the air-laid surface has fibers with a fineness of 23 to 200 dtex? [For examining purposes, the Examiner will use such interpretation].

6. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: the claim fails to provide spatial relationship of the first and second sheets comprised by the cleaning area.

7. Claims 3, 4, 5 and 10 are also rejected as being dependent on claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1, 3, 4, 5 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-224895 in view of JP 10-060761 and JP 2000-328415.

The JP 09-224895 discloses a sheet for cleaning that is composed of a base material sheet made of a nonwoven fabric and an intermediate sheet, which is a tacky adhesive and a front surface of a meshed fabric. The reference teaches that the dirt is entangled with the nonwoven fabric fibers of the front surface sheet and captured by the tacky adhesiveness or the through holes of the meshed fabric. (Abstract) The nonwoven fabric will equate the scraping part of the

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present invention and the meshed fabric and/or intermediate sheets equate the dust-holding part of the present invention.

However, the JP 09-224895 reference does not teach that the nonwoven fabric is air-laid and that the fibers of the air-laid surface have a fineness of 23 to 200 dtex.

The JP 10-060761 reference discloses a cleaning sheet produced by arranging two kinds of thermally fusible short fibers having a fiber length of 5 mm and different fiber diameters into three-dimensional structures, respectively, by an air-laying method. (Abstract)

The JP 09-224895 and JP 10-060761 references fail to teach the fineness of the fibers being of 23 to 200 dtex [20 d – 180d].

JP 2000-328415 discloses a nonwoven fabric produced by dispersing staple fibers composed of a hot-melting conjugate fiber of a length of 3-4 mm and a fineness of 30-80 deniers. (Abstract)

The Japanese references cited above are from the same field of endeavor, directed to nonwoven structures classified under Int. Cl. A47L 13-16.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the nonwoven material of the cleaning sheet and provide it with an air-laid surface with the motivation of preventing gathered dust from dropping as disclosed in the JP 10-060761 Abstract. Further, it would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide it with fibers of fineness of 30-80 deniers with the motivation of providing a material suitable to make an absorptive article as disclosed by the JP 200-328415 Abstract/Title.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Norca L. Torres-Velazquez whose telephone number is 571-272-1484. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:00-4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

NL
Norca L. Torres-Velazquez
Examiner
Art Unit 1771

January 7, 2005